



# Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

March 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM H. WEBSTER  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Re: Attorney General's Guidelines on Domestic  
Security/Terrorism Investigations

I am transmitting formally herewith an approved copy of the Attorney General's Guidelines on Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations, which have been integrated with the Attorney General's Guidelines for General Crimes and Organized Crime Investigations. These guidelines, dated today, will become effective in 14 days.

As you have recognized, enterprises prone to terrorism or criminal violence for political or racist purposes are clearly no less dangerous to our citizens than those who operate lawlessly for financial gain. I am confident that these new guidelines will permit our agents to detect and prevent violent crime by such enterprises with greater certainty and effectiveness, while ensuring the public that they are acting properly under the law.

It is important that the FBI devote its criminal intelligence expertise to domestic security/terrorism cases as it has, with increasing success, in organized crime cases. In the past, operating under distinct guidelines setting different standards and procedures has hampered this effort. The new approach, combining both organized crime and domestic security investigations in a single set of guidelines, should make it easier for your agents to focus their intelligence efforts on those criminal enterprises which threaten our people to attain ideological goals.

These Guidelines are the product of more than eight months of careful review involving numerous components of the Department of Justice. This review process has been extremely worthwhile in demonstrating both the merits of guidelines generally and the need for certain specific revisions here. I greatly appreciate the efforts of you and your staff in helping to identify the precise concerns of field agents and in the critical drafting process itself. I think that the Guidelines will help the agents proceed with more confidence in this high priority area of law enforcement, while ensuring the public that these agents will continue to act within the law as first-class professionals.

I look forward to receiving your views with respect to other guidelines or related matters which may also warrant review.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William French Smith', written in a cursive style.

William French Smith  
Attorney General